United Nations S/2016/111

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 February 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in reference to the letter dated 2 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Syrian regime to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, I should like to state the following:

Qatar categorically rejects the thoroughly baseless accusations contained in the letter from the representative of the Syrian regime. The low level to which that regime has sunk demonstrates yet again that it has little regard for the capacity of the international community to distinguish between those sorts of lies and the facts on the ground.

The bloody record of that regime is full of instances of the use of internationally prohibited weapons, including chemical weapons, as well as the murder of civilians, the imposition of blockades, the use of starvation as an instrument of policy, and serious violations of human rights. Its policy is to deny its crimes while making delusional attempts to shift blame to the States that have taken on the responsibility of protecting the Syrian people in accordance with international law and exposing and documenting the crimes of the regime. The letter from that regime's representative should make it clear to the Council that the regime intends to commit fresh crimes. The letter reveals the full extent of the regime's plans for the areas mentioned and makes clear that it plans to blame its new crimes on the States that are supporting the demands of the Syrian people.

If it wishes to restrain that regime and prevent it from committing new crimes, the Council has a responsibility to take a determined stand against a regime that is continuing to kill its own people. The Council must implement its resolutions on the situation in Syria.

Qatar reiterates its support for the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, dignity and self-determination, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Qatar also renews its commitment to working with the international community to implement international humanitarian law and bring to international justice all those responsible for ordering, planning or carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/112

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 3 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the attached information regarding some terrorist attacks and the mortar shells and rockets launched by terrorist groups in the month of January 2016, which left many civilians dead or injured and resulted in damages to public and private properties (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

16-01756 (E) 100216 110216

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Annex to the identical letters dated 3 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

31 December 2015 and 1 January 2016

- Several projectiles (mortars, rockets) landed in a number of neighbourhoods in the city of Damascus, injuring 10 persons and causing material damage to buildings and vehicles.
- Eight mortar shells landed in the Harasta suburb in Rif Dimashq governorate, killing two civilians, injuring two others and causing material damage.
- Several mortar shells landed in a number of neighbourhoods in Aleppo governorate, injuring five persons and causing material damage.
- A mortar shell landed in the village of Umm Batinah in the countryside of Qunaytirah governorate, injuring four civilians.
- In Homs, a civilian was killed and others injured when terrorist groups detonated two explosive devices.
- Four civilians were injured when 13 mortar shells landed in the Muhradah area and the village of Jinan in the countryside of Hama governorate.
- Terrorists detonated two explosive devices in two restaurants in central Qamishli governorate, killing 16 persons and injuring 35.
- A rocket landed in the Hammam neighbourhood in Ladhiqiyah governorate, injuring a civilian and causing material damage.

2 January 2016

- Several rockets landed in the city of Damascus and Rif Dimashq, as follows:

Location	*Number of projectiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
Abbasiyin	1	1320	Material damage
Assad suburb, Jazirah B4	1	1320	One killed and material damage
Around the Dama Rose Hotel	3	1530	Material damage to vehicles
Ministry of Education	1	1530	Material damage
Behind the Russian Cultural Centre	1	1530	Material damage
Adawi	2	1530	Material damage
Assad suburb, B1	3	1530	Material damage
Assad suburb roundabout	1	1530	Material damage

Resulted in one death and material damage.

4 January 2016

- Several gas cylinder missiles landed in a number of neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo, injuring 19 civilians and causing material damage.

5 January 2016

- Two mortar shells landed in Dar'a, killing a child and inflicting shrapnel wounds on her sister, and causing material damage.
- A mortar shell landed in Rif Dimashq, causing material damage. A mortar shell was also launched at the Ibn Sina Hospital, injuring one person and causing material damage.
- Four mortar shells landed in the city of Jaramana, causing material damage.

6 January 2016

- Several rockets landed in the city of Damascus and Rif Dimashq, as follows:

Location	*Number of projectiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
Roof of the Rif Dimashq Chamber of Commerce building (Baghdad Street)	1	1200	11 dead, 25 injured and material damage
Parliament compound	1	1200	One injury and material damage
Old fairground	1	1300	No injuries or damage
Behind the Real Estate Authority	1	1300	One civilian injured and material damage
Mu'addamiyah, northern quarter	1	1345	Material damage

Resulted in 11 dead, 31 injured and material damage.

7 and 8 January 2016

- Three mortar shells landed at Salihiyah Gate, on Baghdad Street and on Thawrah Street in Damascus, killing 9 civilians, injuring 39 others and causing material damage.
- A mortar shell landed in the northern quarter of Mu'addamiyah in Rif Dimashq, injuring four civilians and causing material damage.
- Two projectiles (gas cylinder missiles) landed at Suryan al-Jadidah in Aleppo, killing a female civilian and injuring five others. A civilian woman was also injured by shrapnel from a shell in Halab al-Jadidah.
- Terrorists taking shelter in Eastern Ghutah launched two mortar shells at the Harasta suburb. The terrorist attack killed one person and caused various injuries to six others, including two women. It also caused material damage to property.
- Mortar shells landed in a number of residential neighbourhoods in central Damascus.
- A civilian woman was injured in Manshiyah in Dar'a governorate by shrapnel to the head from shells fired by terrorist groups.

- Three civilians were injured when a mortar shell landed at Hamdaniyah in the city of Aleppo, and material damage was caused to civilian property.
- Two persons died and three others were injured when terrorists from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) organization fired two shells at the Jawrah residential neighbourhood in the city of Dayr al-Zawr.

9 January 2016

- A large number of rockets landed in the towns of Nubul and Zahra', killing a civilian woman, injuring three civilians and causing extensive material damage to residential buildings.
- Armed terrorist groups launched two rockets at the town of Salhab in the Hama countryside, killing one person and injuring another.

12 January 2016

- A mortar shell launched by armed terrorist groups landed in the Manshiyah neighbourhood in Dar'a, killing one civilian and injuring another.
- Two mortar shells landed at Ramusah in Aleppo, injuring three civilians. Several rockets landed on the towns of Nubul and Zahra', killing a civilian and causing material damage.
- 94 shells were fired at the area surrounding the Harasta suburb in Rif Dimashq, causing material damage. Six mortar shells also fell in Wafidin camp and the surrounding area, causing material damage.

13 January 2016

- A landmine exploded in the village of Dawudiyah in the city of Hasakah, killing 2 children and injuring 10 others.
- Mortar shells landed in the besieged residential town of Nubul in the northern Aleppo countryside, killing one person, causing various injuries to others and causing material damage to homes.
- A gas cylinder missile landed at Ashrafiyah in Aleppo, killing a child and injuring two other persons.
- A round of sniper fire from armed terrorist groups at A'zamiyah in Aleppo injured a girl who is now in critical condition.

14 and 15 January 2016

- An ISIL suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt in the village of Tawq al-Milh west of the city of Hasakah, killing two persons and injuring others.
- An explosive device planted by terrorists under a vehicle in the Armenian quarter in Homs injured a woman and caused material damage to the area.
- Two mortar shells fell in the industrial zone of Damascus International Airport, causing material damage.

16 January 2016

- ISIL terrorists perpetrated a horrifying massacre against the people of the village of Baghiliyah in Dayr al-Zawr that claimed the lives of 300 civilians, most of them elderly persons, women and children.
- Five rockets were launched at the Bustan al-Zahrah, Mushariqah and Aziziyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing 3 civilians, injuring 17 and causing extensive material damage to a number of homes.
- One person was killed and others wounded by rockets launched at the besieged town of Fu'ah in the Idlib countryside.

17 January 2016

- Five rockets landed in Aleppo, killing two civilians and injuring one.
- Gas cylinder missiles landed in several parts of Aleppo, injuring six civilians.

19 January 2016

- Several rockets landed at Ramusah in Aleppo, killing 3 civilians and injuring 11 others, including five children.
- A projectile (gas cylinder missile) landed at Salah al-Din in Aleppo, injuring three civilians.
- Armed groups launched mortar shells at Masakin al-Ruwwad in Dayr al-Zawr, killing a civilian and injuring another.

20 January 2016

- Armed individuals fired at passing cars in the Barzah neighbourhood of Damascus, killing a civilian and injuring others.
- Six rockets landed in the Safirah area of Aleppo, killing four civilians and inflicting shrapnel wounds on five others.
- A gas cylinder missile landed in Aleppo at Hamdaniyah, injuring two civilians.
- A round of sniper fire from armed terrorist groups injured a civilian at Sulaymaniyah in Aleppo.

24 January 2016

- A motorcycle bomb exploded in Qamishli, killing 3 civilians, injuring 14 others and causing material damage.
- Two explosive projectiles (gas cylinders) landed in Masakin al-Sabil in Aleppo, injuring six civilians.

25 and 26 January 2016

- A terrorist suicide bombing in the Zahra' neighbourhood of Homs killed 24 people and injured 100.
- ISIL terrorists shelled a number of areas in Dayr al-Zawr, killing 6 civilians, including a woman, injuring 12, including two children, and causing material damage to property.

- Several mortar shells landed in the town of Qarfa in Dar'a, injuring three civilians.
- Gas cylinder missiles landed in Aleppo, injuring nine civilians.
- 10 mortar shells landed in the village of Tumin in the city of Hama, injuring a number of persons, including children.
- Several mortar shells landed in Aleppo at a number of locations, including Salah al-Din, Ramusah, Jam'iyat al-Zahra' and the Scientific Research Centre area, injuring a number of civilians.
- Several gas canister missiles landed in Aleppo, injuring two peaceable civilians.
- Sniper fire from terrorist groups in Aleppo in Ashrafiyah and Hamdaniyah injured two civilians.

27 January 2016

- Several mortar shells landed in Aleppo in the Aziziyah neighbourhood, Ugarit Street, Jamiliyah and Binyamin, killing a civilian woman and injuring 11 other civilians.
- A mortar shell landed in Dayr al-Zawr in the Tahtuh neighbourhood, killing a civilian.

28 and 29 January 2016

- A round of fire from terrorist groups in Dar'a injured a child.
- A mortar shell landed in Qunaytirah, killing four civilians and injuring 14 others.
- A round of sniper fire at Sayf al-Dawlah in Aleppo killed a civilian.
- Five mortar shells landed at a number of locations in Aleppo, injuring nine civilians, including a woman.
- Gas cylinder missiles landed at a number of locations in Aleppo, killing two defenceless civilians and injuring four others.
- A mortar shell killed three children and injured another with shrapnel to the head in the Muwazzafin neighbourhood in Dayr al-Zawr.

31 January 2016

- Three terrorist bombings in the town of Sayyidah Zaynab in Rif Dimashq killed 60 persons and injured more than 110.
- Two mortar shells landed in Damascus, injuring two children.
- Mortar shells landed in several parts of Damascus, killing a child and injuring a woman.
- Mortar shells landed in Dayr al-Zawr, injuring four civilians, including a girl.

United Nations S/2016/113

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 1 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you in reference to document S/2016/10, dated 4 January 2016, regarding matters of which the Security Council is seized and the stage reached in their consideration.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government requests the retention of the following item, listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document, on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

67. The situation in Myanmar

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**

16-01544 (E) 040216

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United Nations S/2016/114

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 4 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit hereby the communiqué and the memorandum of the Government of Burundi regarding the twenty-sixth summit of the African Union (see annexes I and II), held in Addis Ababa, on 30 and 31 January 2016, for circulation as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

16-01553 (E) 090216 100216

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Annex I to the letter dated 4 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Communiqué of the Government of Burundi following the summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union

On 30 and 31 January 2016, a summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union was held in Addis Ababa. One of the issues on the agenda was the need to approve or reject the unilateral decision taken by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to propose the deployment to Burundi of a 5,000-strong military force known as the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi (MAPROBU).

The Government of Burundi welcomes the wise decision taken at the African Union summit of Heads of State and Government not to deploy troops without the request or consent of the Burundian people, who considered such deployment to be inappropriate, especially since the Burundian defence and security forces ensure the security of the entire country and the whole population, even beyond the borders of Burundi at the request of the international community.

The Government of Burundi further welcomes the decision taken by the African Union to send a high-level mission to Burundi. The Government of Burundi had in fact many times requested such a mission since the only way to understand the political and security situation in Burundi is to have visited the country and its people. That is what the Peace and Security Council of the African Union should have done before inappropriately deciding, based on incorrect and manipulated reports, to deploy MAPROBU, a force that could not know where to deploy its troops or, more particularly, among which warring parties, since there are none.

With regard to these manipulated reports, the Government denounces and condemns the persistent views of those who remain determined to see these foreign forces deployed in Burundi and do not hesitate to resort to dishonest tactics such as the issuance of falsely damning reports, going as far as to produce and disseminate doctored images with the aim of influencing the decisions of international bodies at the highest level.

The most striking case is the recent publication by the non-governmental organization Amnesty International — just two days before the summit of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa at which leaders were to decide whether or not to deploy MAPROBU forces to Burundi — of photos that, according to the organization, had been taken by a spy satellite and constituted evidence of probable mass graves in Burundi.

Amnesty International has merely followed other similar initiatives. It will be recalled in that regard that, on the eve of the expected arrival of a United Nations Security Council delegation sent to Burundi on 22 January 2016 to assess the security situation and also the need to deploy MAPROBU, the television channel France 3 broadcast extremely violent and gruesome clips from a video sent to it by Bernard Maingain, a Belgian lawyer who defends the cause of the radical opposition and, in particular, the leaders of the attempted coup of 13 May 2015. The video

concerned alleged crimes committed in Burundi, specifically in Karuzi, in the centre of the country, that were attributed to the Burundian security forces and members of the youth wing of the ruling party, known as Imbonerakure. The video was broadcast with the aim of disrupting the visit of the United Nations Security Council delegation and negatively influencing its outcome, though fortunately it did not succeed in that aim.

The Government of the Republic of Burundi would like to remind Burundians and the international community that it is not the first time that Amnesty International has issued negative reports on Burundi. For example, after terrorists from the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo attacked Cibitoke in western Burundi at the end of 2014, the organization did not hesitate to bring out a false report that accused the forces of law and order and the victims of the attack, while saying nothing about the aggressors and still less condemning them. It should be recalled that the attack was intended to disrupt the May 2015 elections, preparations for which were well under way.

The Government of the Republic of Burundi condemns this new attempt by Amnesty International to tarnish once again the country's image, and finds that the dissemination of these alleged satellite images showing disturbed earth and sand, in essentially agricultural regions, does not provide any material evidence of the existence of mass graves in Burundi. The choice of the date for their publication clearly shows that the organization wished to stir up the emotions of the Heads of State and influence their decision.

If Amnesty International was sincerely working for human rights, as it claims, and if it really wanted to help the cause of peace in Burundi, it should focus the spotlight on and point its spy satellite cameras towards the camps in neighbouring Rwanda for the recruitment and training of Burundian refugees, including child soldiers, which anywhere else would constitute a crime against humanity.

The Government of Burundi again welcomes the wisdom and pragmatism with which the Heads of State have faced all these attempts at manipulation by giving priority to the interests of a sovereign member State and its people. The African Heads of State have clearly understood that, after Burundi, other African States will doubtless be targeted for destabilization.

Furthermore, the Government of Burundi welcomes the fact that the Heads of State at the summit recommended the continuation of the inter-Burundian dialogue already launched under the auspices of the Ugandan President Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. In that regard, the Government wishes to recall that it has always given priority to the dialogue and is merely awaiting the arrival in Burundi of a Ugandan delegation in order to discuss practical means for continuing the dialogue with a view to reaching constructive conclusions.

The Government reaffirms its strong commitment to protecting all Burundian and foreign citizens living in its territory, in full respect for human rights and human dignity, and to cooperating with all its partners, including the African Union, to find a solution that addresses the problems faced by Burundi, while respecting its sovereignty.

To conclude, the Government wishes to reassure the national and international community once again that there will be no genocide in Burundi and that the Burundian people will oppose by every means all those who seek to impose genocide in any manner whatsoever as a pretext to install a government that does not reflect the democratic will of the people.

Bujumbura, 1 February 2016

(*Signed*) Philippe **Nzobonariba**
Secretary-General and Spokesman of the Government

Annex II to the letter dated 4 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Memorandum of the Government of Burundi on the eve of the African Union summit to be held on 30 and 31 January 2016

Violent demonstrations have recently taken place in Burundi. Contrary to the prevailing view, this violence was not sparked by the nomination of the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) candidate for the 2015 presidential election. The stark reality is that those demonstrations began well before the nomination of the CNDD-FDD candidate, which had been judged in advance by some groups within and outside the country to be against the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi.

The Government of Burundi did not take lightly the concerns expressed both by Burundians and by our partners, particularly in relation to peace and security, and the calls to ensure respect for the Constitution, the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi and the Global Ceasefire Agreement in order to conduct free, fair, inclusive and peaceful elections.

It is well known that the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi derives from the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi signed on 28 August 2000, and the Global Ceasefire Agreement signed on 16 November 2003. It also draws inspiration from the Charter of National Unity celebrated each year on 5 February. The Government of Burundi is strongly and fully committed to that Constitution.

Persistent confusion about articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution gave rise to heated debate, contradictory interpretations and even speculation, leading some actors to state that the 2015 general elections in Burundi should be postponed.

The Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, which was signed by 17 political parties and the Government, includes reservations formulated by 10 signatories. It is stated that these reservations form an integral part of the Arusha Agreement, especially with respect to the manner of electing the President of the Republic and the transition period.

The Governments formed after the general elections of 2005 and 2010 demonstrated a strong will, commitment and determination to implement the spirit and letter of the Arusha Agreement. It should be stressed that the Arusha Agreement was significantly improved by the Global Ceasefire Agreement signed in 2003 between the Transitional Government and CNDD-FDD, at that time a combatant movement.

The Government firmly believes that elections are the only way to acknowledge, take note of and, above all, respect the people's verdict. The international community, which was deeply involved in the negotiations that enabled the Burundian people to regain peace and restore democracy, must support the will of the people by supporting the elected Government.

It is very important for the international community and local and international partners to understand and acknowledge that the Constitutional Court is the only body empowered to rule on questions relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, which the Burundian people have placed above other laws and agreements.

The Court delivered a judgement declaring that the renewal of the current presidential term through direct universal suffrage was not against the Burundian Constitution of 18 March 2005. As the Constitutional Court's decision cannot be appealed, we have an obligation to take note of the decision in its entirety, and the Burundian Government is committed to respecting it.

It should be recalled that, each time since its independence that Burundi has prepared for elections, it has been faced with rumours and lies urging the population to flee an imminent crisis.

These rumours have always proven to be baseless and unjustified, since no crisis has subsequently arisen. That was the case in 1993, before the elections, and in 2005 and 2010, again before the elections. The same rumours spread like wildfire, and all honest citizens of Burundi know the result.

It should also be underscored that more than a million people fled to Tanzania in 1993 when civil war broke out following the assassination of Melchior Ndadaye, the first democratically elected President.

The Government wishes to recall that the National Independent Electoral Commission received eight presidential bids. Could anyone stand as a candidate without believing in the election?

Paradoxically, some of those who submitted bids were the first to urge people to engage in insurrection. They were supported by certain pseudo-political parties which have no popular support but which pass themselves off as being clever enough to force a transition, in order to reap what they have not sown.

We therefore ask: "Who should be blamed for what is happening in Burundi?" The answer is simple: certain opposition politicians who have always had next to no electoral base, and whose only tools are the private media they control, falsely criticizing the Government from studios in Bujumbura, without making any effort to obtain support at the grassroots level. They only re-emerge when the next election is looming.

They would do well to learn that preparation for elections does not begin once a new election process is under way, but immediately after the previous cycle has ended.

Contrary to the situation portrayed in the media, the social environment in Burundi has been eminently conducive to elections. The security situation in Burundi is strong overall, as 99 per cent of the country is peaceful; of the 3,002 smaller administrative entities known as "districts" or "collines", only some of the inhabitants of the five districts of Bujumbura, the capital, have taken to the streets.

Insurgent activity has been primarily reported in the capital city of Bujumbura, but statistics show that, even there, less than 5 per cent of the city has been affected.

There are promising signs that a definitive end to the violence is within sight. All people want is to be helped to improve their standard of living. The population,

particularly children, cannot continue to be used as human shields in acts of violence. Students at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels have all returned to school after realizing that their place is not in the streets.

The Government has repeatedly requested political party leaders to appeal to their voters to comply with law and order and participate in large numbers at all stages of the electoral process. For the Burundian people, elections are the only sustainable solution for the current situation. This central achievement of democracy must be conscientiously upheld.

The Government has made every effort to ensure a free, fair and peaceful electoral process. It wishes once again to bring to the attention of the national and international community that the elections were transparent, peaceful and inclusive.

The Government once again urges the international community, the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and all regional groupings to support us in this endeavour. We must respect the will of the people as expressed at the polls.

There are 46 accredited political parties in Burundi, although only 12 of them, several as part of coalitions, took part in the August 2015 elections, together with a number of independent candidates. This is further proof of the inclusiveness and broad participation characterizing the 2015 elections. Such has long characterized the electoral process. There are many political parties, but only a few participate in elections. It is nevertheless those that have no popular support or political presence on the ground that are particularly obstreperous and spread lies.

After their anti-democratic tactic of withdrawing from the 2010 electoral process, the opposition parties have repeatedly compromised the country's security through the use of violence and terrorism. Various CNDD-FDD offices have been burned throughout the country and grenades have been thrown in public places, in most cases targeting members of the ruling party.

Furthermore, some of the opposition leaders mentioned above and their members have been cited in various reports of United Nations experts as belonging to regional negative forces, particularly in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government wishes to recall some of the reprehensible tactics deployed by the opposition before, during and after the elections:

Through various letters and interviews with the media, some political actors and leaders of opposition political parties have demonstrated since 2013 that they were not preparing for the 2015 elections.

During the voter registration process, a number of opposition leaders blew hot and cold, urging their supporters to refrain from registering to vote, only to insist vehemently, once they realized that the electoral process was proceeding smoothly, that the registration period be extended to allow their supporters to register.

When the Government of Burundi proposed the adoption of a biometric identification card in 2012, the opposition rejected the idea, describing it as a tool in an unprecedented rigging conspiracy planned for the following electoral cycle.

Surprisingly, just days before the elections, the same opposition parties insistently called for the adoption of the biometric identification card!

Several attempts were made to explain that the country could not conduct elections with the biometric identification card and that the regular card should be used as before. Indeed, the same card had been used in the 1993, 2005 and 2010 elections. What was driving Burundian politicians to impose a technological solution that was not a feasible option for the Burundian Government at that time?

Simply put, some of these parties did not want the elections to take place. After seeking the opinion of the United Nations Development Programme and information technology experts, these politicians and civil society activists came to their senses.

As if that were not enough, some politicians and members of civil society claimed that false identification cards had been used during voter registration, although they failed to provide proof supporting these allegations.

The Government also wishes to recall that, during the establishment of the Electoral Commission and its branches, opposition parties instructed their members to withdraw, in a desperate attempt to disrupt the electoral process. When they realized that they had failed, they called for the outright dismissal or resignation of the Electoral Commission, but failed once again.

They even attempted another plot to derail the electoral process by claiming that the indelible ink used in the elections could promote cheating, as it was erasable, could allow voters to cast two ballots, and so on. However, the same indelible ink had been used in 1993, 2005 and 2010 and the ink used in 2015 was of even better quality.

Lastly, the nomination by CNDD-FDD of Pierre Nkurunziza as a candidate for the 2015 presidential election provided yet another pretext. Some opposition parties and members of civil society launched what began as ostensibly peaceful protests but quickly deteriorated into violent insurrection.

The Government deplores the fact that these actions were carried out with the tacit approval or support of some countries in order to thwart the Government's efforts to restore stability and keep the electoral process on track, elections being the only democratic means of attaining power, as stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi.

The Government welcomes the support provided by the region for the electoral process through the various initiatives and meetings organized, namely, by the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and the Economic Community of Central African States, which deployed observers throughout much of the country.

The judgement of the Constitutional Court of Burundi confirming the legality of the nomination of President Pierre Nkurunziza was insufficient to halt the insurrection launched by the radical opposition and some members of civil society. All members of the opposition came up with their own interpretations of the Constitution on the spot.

Until then, the hidden intention behind the insurrection, namely, to overthrow institutions in an attempted coup, had not been known. The coup was part of a longstanding plan developed by the same actors in collaboration with certain civil society organizations and some deviant army and police officers. It was staged on 13 May 2015.

After the unsuccessful coup d'état, some leaders were arrested and brought to justice, while others fled to neighbouring countries, particularly Rwanda. Rwanda continues to host them and facilitate their campaigns to destabilize Burundi.

Destabilization efforts have included infiltration from Rwandan territory.

Infiltration by armed men continues to be observed, and military equipment has been recovered or intercepted in the country's northern provinces. Recruitment and training of young people in Burundian refugee camps on Rwandan soil has been conducted openly.

The Government strongly condemns the acts of aggression and destabilization that Rwanda has committed against Burundi in allowing the perpetrators of the failed coup d'état of 13 May 2015 to become organized and recruit and arm young people in Burundian refugee camps in Rwanda and, worse yet, in facilitating the attack launched on 10 July 2015 on Burundian territory.

On 11 December 2015, simultaneous attacks were launched on three military camps in the capital with the aim of seizing arms and ammunition. It was broadly apparent that this was just a suicide mission, albeit with a political agenda.

Following these suicide terrorist attacks masterminded by the planners of the insurrection, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union decided, at its 565th meeting on 18 December 2015, to deploy a force of 5,000 troops to Burundi in what it called the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi (MAPROBU) (communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(DLXV)).

Although there is no doubt as to the noble ideas contained in the decision of the Peace and Security Council, we cannot disregard the deceitful claims used to justify what we believe to be a serious accusation, including the use of the term "genocide" in reference to a country where social cohesion has been a reality since 2004 as a result of the implementation without incident of the Arusha Agreement and the Global Ceasefire Agreement.

Strangely, our Government was not involved in this project, even though Burundi was Chair of the Peace and Security Council in December 2015. The members of the Peace and Security Council had nonetheless emphasized the critical need for consultations, as no force can be deployed without the consent of member States. Our country is one of those States.

The Burundian population has not welcomed the decision of the Peace and Security Council. The two chambers of Parliament, consisting of deputies and senators (representing the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa) in the spirit of the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution, shared this view, underscoring that there was neither genocide, commission of crimes against humanity nor ethnic conflict in Burundi, and that no references to such violations could be found in any official reports.

Our position cannot therefore be contrary to that expressed by our people, its representatives and our Constitution. In this we ask for your understanding and support.

However, it would greatly advance the aim of peace if the Peace and Security Council could ensure an end to the illegal and violent activities carried out on Rwandan territory against Burundi.

The tactics that we are condemning here are not only at odds with the Charter of the United Nations but also violate the Constitutive Act of the African Union, specifically article 4 (r) of the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The latter clearly prohibits "any Member State from allowing the use of its territory as a base for subversion against another Member State".

The Government of Burundi continues to implement its programme to disarm the population and considerable progress has been achieved in this regard. It requests the African Union to favour a dialogue-based approach and defer the decision to deploy MAPROBU troops against the people's wishes.

The Government once again reassures the international community that it remains committed to the values and principles of contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and advancing the ideals of national unity, human rights, democracy and national sovereignty to achieve its goal of one nation with one united and prosperous people.

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Seventy-first year

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution 1646 (2005), for an annual debate. The report covers the ninth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

2. On 29 October 2010, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted resolutions 65/7 and 1947 (2010), respectively, through which the two organs, inter alia, requested the Commission to reflect, in its annual reports, the progress made in taking forward the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the co-facilitators on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/64/868-S/2010/393, annex). Beginning with the report of the Commission on its sixth session, the implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 review has been mainstreamed into the reporting on the Commission's policy and country-specific activities. The structure of the three previous reports reflected this development in content and format, placing added emphasis on performance of the main functions in the specific country settings, the role of the membership, the links with parent organs and the themes explored by the Commission.

3. Furthermore, each of the previous three reports included a forward agenda to guide the work of the Commission on country-specific and policy-related engagements in the session following that covered by the report. In order to strengthen the framework within which the Commission conducts its activities, the present report is structured around the elements contained in the forward agenda of the annual report on the eighth session (see A/69/818-S/2015/174, paras. 66-72). The present report will also touch upon the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and how the Commission has engaged with the recommendations contained therein.

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II. Work of the Commission

4. During its ninth session, the key objectives for the work of the Organizational Committee were the following: adopting more transparent and strategic working methods within the Committee, including a more flexible agenda and increasing inclusivity; improving partnerships with regional and subregional organizations; highlighting peacebuilding needs in the Ebola recovery; and taking forward recommendations of the peacebuilding review. Among the thematic policy priority areas were financing for peacebuilding and gender issues. Several activities were undertaken to meet these objectives. The Committee had opportunities to discuss peacebuilding needs and lessons learned in several countries outside the purview of the Commission's existing agenda, including Burkina Faso, Papua New Guinea and Somalia. To advance peacebuilding within the Ebola recovery, a trip to West Africa was undertaken by the Chair, who participated in the Spring Meeting of the World Bank to draw attention to the issue. A special session on youth and peacebuilding was held in the Committee to discuss how to better include young people's perspectives.

5. Through its country-specific configurations and its broader policy advisory role, the Commission continued to carry out its three core functions of advocacy, accompaniment and sustaining attention; resource mobilization and partnerships; and forging coherence. The Commission further strengthened linkages at the country level with the programmatic activity of the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission continued to explore ways in which to adopt more flexible and lighter working methods, including follow-up on the work of its first annual session to commemorate Peacebuilding Day[1] (in June 2014) and forging closer interaction and engagement among the relevant stakeholders in New York and those from Member States' capitals on key international peacebuilding challenges. Reflecting the convening role of the Commission as a central aspect of the exercise of its advisory function to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Commission convened thematic and country-specific meetings at its second annual session held in June 2015. A list of the activities undertaken by the Commission will be made available in a separate document, to be posted on the website of the Commission.[2]

6. The current reporting period coincided with the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture, mandated under paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 65/7 and Security Council resolution 1947 (2010). On 15 December 2014, building on the advance preparation carried forward by the Organizational Committee, the Presidents of the Assembly and the Council transmitted to the Secretary-General the terms of reference for the conduct of the 2015 review and requested that he proceed as proposed therein. Subsequently, the Secretary-General appointed an Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, whose report was drafted along the lines indicated in the terms of reference. The report (see A/69/968-S/2015/490) was submitted to the Assembly and the Council on 29 June 2015. On 6 July 2015, the Presidents of the Assembly and the Council appointed the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Angola as co-facilitators of an inclusive intergovernmental process established to review the

[1] See para. 14 of the declaration of Heads of State and Government of the members of the Commission, entitled "Peacebuilding: the way towards sustainable peace and security" (PBC/6/OC/6).

[2] http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/.

findings and consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts.

7. The Commission discussed the findings and recommendations of the Advisory Group of Experts at a number of informal meetings. On 29 September, the Government of Sweden, the International Peace Institute and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation convened a ministerial-level panel discussion entitled "Champions for a new approach to peacebuilding", highlighting "sustaining peace" as the core activity of the United Nations. On 30 and 31 October, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the Peacebuilding Support Office co-organized an informal retreat at the ambassadorial level with the participation of the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials. The retreat, whose theme was entitled "Realizing the potential of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture: the 2015 review and beyond", offered an opportunity for members of the Commission to discuss the 2015 review, including key issues such as the centrality of sustaining peace, the role of the Commission in bringing intergovernmental and operational coherence to the United Nations, and the need for increased and more predictable financing for peacebuilding, including for the Peacebuilding Fund. In addition, the recommendations contained in the report influenced the work of the Commission during its ninth session. The Chair actively worked to implement the recommendations pertaining to partnership with regional actors and the adoption of more flexible modes of operation in the Organizational Committee.

A. Follow-up to the first and preparation for the second annual session (June 2015)

8. Building on the first-ever annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission (held in 2014) on "Sustainable support for peacebuilding: the domestic and international aspects", the second annual session of the Commission was organized, on 23 June 2015, to discuss "Predictable financing for peacebuilding: breaking the silos". The discussion was timely, following closely on the heels of the issuance, on 17 June 2015, of the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on "uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people" (see A/70/95-S/2015/446) and providing some final inputs before the finalization of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. The meeting provided an opportunity for Member States to develop further views ahead of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals later in 2015. The discussion benefited from statements made by the President of the African Development Bank, Donald Kaberuka, and the Deputy Secretary-General, and presentations made by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and representatives of civil society.

9. Focusing in his remarks on predictable financing and the fragmented international aid architecture, Mr. Kaberuka highlighted the need to ensure that funds were earmarked for peacebuilding. He stressed the fact that otherwise, traditional development assistance would naturally gravitate towards the rewarding of performance which is inherently weak in countries emerging from conflict. Speakers further highlighted the need to reduce supply-side fragmentation through orientation towards national programmes, including by providing resources

"on-budget" and through national institutions. To be successful, such nationally led programmes required political leadership and vision, especially as many of the institutions that needed to sustain peace, such as those covering security, justice and local governance, were of a highly political nature. The cost-effectiveness of investing in prevention was highlighted. The Peacebuilding Fund was identified as a proved instrument through which to channel such investments, and participants called for a scaling up of contributions. More attention should be paid to alternative resources for the financing of peacebuilding, including private sector capital, South-South cooperation and remittances.

10. The annual session also addressed the question of domestic resource mobilization. The discussions revealed the opportunities offered by domestic resources. Increased revenues were a key indicator of political commitment to and leadership of nation-building. It built the confidence of international actors with respect to greater investment (both public and private) and could enable the underwriting of more sustainable programmes and solutions that were led nationally. However, donors were often averse to investing in such financial systems, or limited themselves to the provision of narrow technical assistance without a political accompaniment to such processes. Several participants emphasized the need to build capacity on a subnational level for more efficient and visible collection and service delivery, while others expressed their belief that close connections might exist among domestic revenue, natural resources and corruption issues. The discussions referenced the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa,[3] and called for greater efforts to support the accountable management of natural resources and address issues such as trade mispricing.

11. In closing, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström, in her capacity as Chair of the Commission, along with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, highlighted the need for integrated and coherent development and security strategies in post-conflict countries as a means of addressing fragmented and siloed approaches to peacebuilding funding. In many ways, the conclusions of the Commission's annual session foreshadowed recommendations presented in the review of the peacebuilding architecture and discussed in a variety of forums subsequently through 2015. Some of the key issues included the need for increased programmatic support for building critical institutions capable of sustaining peace, whether through the budgets of peacekeeping missions, increased support to the Peacebuilding Fund or additional resources provided to countries; the need for integrated security and development strategies designed to counteract fragmentation; the need to set aside resources to ensure that peacebuilding and conflict prevention are taken into full account, including through the Peacebuilding Fund; the need to direct more funding through national institutions and in support of building national capacity, at capital and local levels, particularly in the areas of security and justice; the need for more alternative means of financing, through, for example, South-South cooperation, private sector sources, remittances and improved domestic revenues; and the need for improved communication to highlight the successes of prevention, which are not always obvious or tangible.

[3] Available at http://www.uneca.org/iff.

B. Integrate the perspectives of regional actors

12. During the reporting period, the Commission continued its efforts towards strengthening engagement with regional and subregional actors in policy-related and country-specific activities. In several of the country-specific discussions convened by the Commission, the role of neighbouring countries, the African Union, and subregional organizations has been highlighted as a crucial element as regards support to political processes and the response to potential sources of instability. Therefore, in the context of both country configuration meetings and country-specific discussions convened by the Organizational Committee, the Commission placed greater emphasis on the need to be inclusive and to actively engage with regional partners. In this connection, the Committee discussed the transition in Burkina Faso and sustainable financing for peacebuilding in Somalia. The discussions were held on the Chair's initiative and exemplified how the Commission can provide key regional partners with a platform.

13. The members of the Commission from African States continued to articulate a regional perspective on peacebuilding through the political caucus established in the previous session. There were numerous opportunities for the exchange of views on ways to integrate the perspective of regional actors in the work of the Commission, including a working luncheon organized in May by the Chair of the Commission with the caucus and representatives of the African Union Commission, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). On that occasion, several participants called for an institutional partnership between the Commission, the African Union and the African subregional organizations. Participants also noted that the recurring situations of relapse in Africa despite significant regional and United Nations investments point to the absence of critical analysis of both the root causes and the drivers of conflict on the continent.

14. A similar type of luncheon, organized in October by the Chair, together with the Chairs' Group and the countries on the agenda, represented a first opportunity to discuss with a number of representatives of regional economic communities how to establish stronger partnership between the Commission and those communities, to hear their views on the peacebuilding challenges in their respective subregions, and to discuss how the Commission can best leverage and add value to peacebuilding in their regions. Representatives from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), ECCAS, the East African Community (EAC), ECOWAS, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union participated in the luncheon. The need for enhanced conflict prevention was highlighted especially, as was the need for predictable investments in efforts to sustain peace. Further, a need for continued dialogue on these issues was expressed by several actors.

15. The importance of the Commission's work with regional actors such as the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to enable a more coherent response to critical peacebuilding needs, was further underscored at its annual session of 23 June discussed above. The Commission also highlighted the recommendations of the peacebuilding review and the peace operations review on the importance of strengthening our links with regional organizations, including in the area of conflict prevention, inter alia, at a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and

Resolution in Africa, on the theme "Preventive diplomacy in Africa: the role of the African Union and its cooperation with the United Nations", at which the Chair spoke on behalf of the Commission.

16. With regard to country-specific activities, the Commission played an active and important role in fostering the provision of coherent regional support to the authorities of Guinea-Bissau for addressing the most pressing national priorities. The Government of Guinea-Bissau demonstrated ownership in setting the agenda for development with a long-term vision by developing Terra Ranka, a 10-year national development strategy focused on improving governance and access to basic services, eradicating poverty and promoting economic prospects. This was launched at the international partners' conference on Guinea-Bissau, organized in Brussels in March, reinforcing a positive outlook in respect of the country's comprehensive peacebuilding priorities. Along with the support of the Commission, $10 million in catalytic financing was allocated by the Secretary-General at the event from the Peacebuilding Fund. The Government's leadership generated trust among the members of the international community, including neighbouring countries, which translated at the Brussels conference into an unprecedented mobilization of 1.2 billion euros.

17. The commitment and determination of international partners in respect of supporting the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau in a coordinated manner was tested during the three-month impasse following the President's dismissal of the Government of the Prime Minister, Domingos Simões Pereira, in August. In this connection, the Peacebuilding Commission fully supported the mediation roles of ECOWAS and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) in aligning the region behind a swift resolution of the crisis.

18. In Burundi, the Commission increased its collaboration and interaction with regional actors, including United Nations entities/representation and regional organizations in Africa. The Commission supported the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region in accompanying the electoral process in Burundi. This engagement intensified during the crisis that erupted at the end of May, with the Special Envoy regularly briefing the Commission on the situation in Burundi and on his efforts to facilitate a political dialogue during the crisis.

19. Furthermore, the Commission rallied its support behind regional and subregional initiatives on the crisis in Burundi, for example, by encouraging the implementation of decisions and recommendations taken by the Heads of State of the East African Community and by the African Union Peace and Security Council. Member States leading EAC, the United Republic of Tanzania in its capacity as Chair of EAC and Uganda in its capacity as mediator for Burundi were invited by the Commission to update members on progress made in the resolution of the crisis. Funds from the Peacebuilding Fund were allocated in support of the Commission's advocacy and the work of the African Union, including through the financing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights which is working with African Union monitors. Funds were also allocated to complement regional efforts by the backing of national dialogue efforts through national civil society organizations, connecting various local dialogue initiatives.

20. During his visit to Burundi in November, the Chair of the Burundi configuration also visited Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, where he

had fruitful discussions with the Minister of Defence of Uganda, Crispus Kiyonga, who was charged by the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, to lead the EAC mediation process. In Dar es Salaam, the Chair exchanged views with the authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania on the situation in Burundi. As a follow-up to his regional visit, the Chair held consultations with the World Bank and IMF in Washington, D.C.

21. In the Central African Republic, following the Bangui forum, several recommendations were adopted, identifying the short- and medium-term priorities of the transitional authorities. The Commission's Central African Republic configuration continued to encourage useful discussions among all key stakeholders with the intention of framing political consensus within the context of those priorities. In this vein, the Commission has promoted coherent efforts to strengthen national ownership and regional alignment with respect to medium- to long-term peacebuilding objectives. At the high-level meeting on the Central African Republic, convened by the Secretary-General on 1 October 2015, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Salaheddine Mezouar, delivered a speech on behalf of the members of the Central African Republic configuration, in which he highlighted the Commission's engagement in support of the transitional political process in the country. The meeting presented an opportunity for key stakeholders, including from the subregion, to reaffirm their commitment to the Central African Republic and the restoration of long-term peace and stability in the country.

22. Furthermore, both the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and United Nations representative in the International Mediation on the crisis in the Central African Republic, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) were invited by the Commission to brief the Central African Republic configuration on several occasions. They shared with the members their valuable insights on the situation on the ground. The Commission was also active in raising awareness on the lack of funding, particularly for the elections. In this context, Peacebuilding Fund financing was allocated in support of the Bangui forum, building on regional mediation, and funds were also allocated, exceptionally, in support of the elections process at a time when lack of funding was the key obstacle.

23. The Commission consolidated its constructive relationship with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in fulfilling its mandate in Guinea, accompanying both the electoral process and the post-Ebola recovery efforts. The Chair of the Commission travelled to the three countries affected by Ebola in May, and included a trip to Dakar, where the impact of Ebola on the political processes in the region and opportunities to harness the regional approach to post-Ebola recovery efforts were discussed with the Special Representative.

24. Furthermore, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA regularly briefed the Guinea configuration of the Commission on his efforts in accompanying the dialogue process in Guinea, ahead of the presidential elections. For its part, the configuration provided advice and support to the Special Representative with respect to his role in intercountry dialogue, including through

statements by the configuration. During her trip to Guinea from the end of May to the beginning of June, the Chair of the Guinea configuration met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. They reinforced each other's messages on the urgency of a consensus on the pending issues which were critical to a peaceful conduct of the presidential elections. The Guinea configuration of the Commission expressed its support for the agreement reached in August and, later, for the holding of the presidential elections in October in a peaceful manner.

C. Focus and sustain attention on the long-term impacts of the Ebola outbreak

25. During the reporting period, the Commission played an important role in drawing attention to the peacebuilding-related implications of the Ebola crisis, providing an intergovernmental platform for a comprehensive and long-term response. The collective and determined action taken by Member States during the very early stages of the Ebola outbreak demonstrated the ways in which the Commission could play to its political strengths. It helped generate a response from the international community and other parts of the United Nations system, particularly in respect of focusing on the risks posed by the crisis to the overarching peacebuilding gains made by the three most-affected countries. The Commission's early lead was strengthened by Peacebuilding Fund financing made available through quick reprogramming in order to fill funding gaps related to social and political tensions which were emerging despite significant resources available to Ebola-affected countries for the health response. Reprogramming in Sierra Leone supported professionalization among security actors engaged in the health response, while in Guinea, the Fund reprogrammed part of its resources to help prevent violent incidents in Ebola-affected areas, in particular Guinée forestière, which was later declared to be the first Ebola-free region in the country. The Commission followed up on the United Nations assessment on the impact of the Ebola outbreak in the areas of security, local governance, political institutions, social cohesion and economic recovery, taking into consideration a comprehensive regional and longer-term approach. As a result, the terms of reference of the Ebola recovery initiatives led by the United Nations included key areas identified by the Commission.

26. The Ebola outbreak revealed extensive and continued challenges in poverty reduction, access to education and youth employment. Therefore, it was also noted that ensuring sustainable peace in the countries affected and minimizing the risk of renewed conflict would require continued investments in these areas and in measures to reinforce trust in State institutions. The Chair welcomed the interest expressed by many stakeholders in renewed subregional cooperation, as reflected in the joint Mano River Union regional Ebola recovery strategy. The need for a more holistic and well-coordinated approach by the United Nations system and the international community (including donors) to the Ebola recovery efforts was highlighted, especially at the subsequent high-level meetings on Ebola, including the Secretary-General's pledging conference in July 2015.

27. In order to provide a more coherent response to the crisis, to keep the momentum and raise awareness on long-term peacebuilding issues in the midst of a health crisis, the Commission adopted a flexible mode of engagement which brought together the representatives of the three affected countries and the Chairs of the respective configurations within the framework of the Organizational

Committee. In this regard, the Commission, upon the Chair's return from his visit to West Africa, convened a special session on 14 April. At this special session, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted some of the gaps and challenges identified in the areas of governance, peacebuilding and core government functions within the national Ebola recovery plans, including fostering the State-society relationship, promoting civic engagement and strengthening cohesive societies which hold government to account.[4] UNDP also emphasized the importance of strengthening the articulation of the objectives of post-Ebola peacebuilding, which had been limited to security and administration in the national plans. The Commission agreed that the Chair would participate in the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings on the Ebola recovery to convey a number of key recommendations, including the need for the international community to remain committed to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in order to ensure that important peacebuilding needs were addressed in the recovery phase.

28. On a number of occasions, the Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone configurations provided updates on the crisis to the wider membership. An important outcome of these discussions was the understanding that key lessons from the Ebola crisis response — including on the role of national and local community leadership and ownership, the need for a regional approach, and the opportunity for maintaining broad international engagement — should be guiding the involvement of the Commission in the Ebola recovery phase as well. National stakeholders requested that the Commission continue advocating for international attention so as to maintain the momentum and to ensure that the international community stood by its commitments and pledges. The Commission was encouraged to adopt a role in supporting key peacebuilding priorities in national recovery efforts. This required collective efforts by all of the members of the Commission in respect of promoting peacebuilding priorities in all relevant forums and working in the areas of their different comparative advantages.

29. The Ebola crisis revealed outstanding challenges related to the consolidation of peace which need to be addressed by the international community. In this connection, the informal expert-level meeting of the Sierra Leone configuration held on 21 May highlighted the important role that the Commission can play in providing policy advice and enhancing coordination with all relevant actors in efforts towards capacity-building.

30. The Commission closely monitored the ongoing recovery efforts in Sierra Leone, taking into account the political and socioeconomic developments in the country, particularly through the issuance of statements and the convening of informal meetings. In December, the Commission issued a statement of congratulations to the Government and people of Sierra Leone on their having been declared Ebola-free. Further, the informal meeting held on 7 December became a

[4] On 25 November 2014, following up on the outcome of the numerous meetings of the Commission dedicated to the fight against Ebola virus disease, the Chair addressed a letter to the Secretary-General requesting that the United Nations undertake an assessment of the impact of Ebola on post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In his letter, the Chair stressed the importance attached by the Commission to the impact of the outbreak in the areas of security, local governance, political institutions, social cohesion and economic recovery. In his letter dated 17 December 2014 in response to the letter of the Commission, the Secretary-General informed the Commission that UNDP would lead the United Nations initiatives on Ebola-related recovery.

platform which brought together government representatives, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat/United Nations Office for West Africa, UNDP and the United Nations country team, including the Resident Coordinator a.i. The discussion facilitated a re-examination of a coherent strategy for the Commission's engagement during Sierra Leone's recovery and progress in the post-United Nations mission drawdown.

D. Improve the advisory function with regard to and the modality of interaction with the General Assembly and the Security Council

31. The Commission continued to explore ways to strengthen the advisory function with regard to and improve interaction with the General Assembly and the Security Council. It pursued three tracks in its relations with the Council, consisting in: (a) the fourth informal interactive dialogue co-organized by the President of the Council and the Chair of the Commission; (b) a periodic stocktaking, at the expert level, coordinated by Malaysia; and (c) formal briefings to the Council on country-specific and thematic issues.

32. The informal interactive dialogue between the members of the Security Council, the Chairs of the Commission and the countries on its agenda was held on 25 June. The meeting, to which the Deputy Secretary-General was also invited as a briefer, offered an opportunity to discuss practical ways of strengthening the future role of the Commission in support of the Council. Particular emphasis was placed on its advisory role once the Council has mandated a peace operation, during the drawdown and transition of a mission and beyond the lifespan of a mission. The meeting highlighted the nature of the Commission's advisory role with respect to the Council, which was centred on enhancing efforts aimed at preventing lapses and relapses into conflict. By providing context-specific and tailored advice, the Commission could ensure that national priorities were factored into the Council's mandate design and implementation. The convening role of the Commission was also underlined, it being noted that, by bringing together security and development actors, including at the regional and subregional levels, the Commission was well positioned to bring a peacebuilding perspective to the deliberations of the Council. It was noted that, within the context of a focus on the drawdown and transition phase, the Commission could play a critical role in sustaining the attention of regional organizations and international financial institutions as directed towards national peacebuilding priorities. The discussions also referred to the importance of the Commission's engagement whenever a country believed that it could benefit from international support during a political transition. With regard to the practical modalities for strengthening the advisory role of the Commission, some participants recommended more regular engagement with the Council and more forward-looking planning of field visits, ahead of the Council's discussions. As highlighted in the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, the Peacebuilding Fund is also poised to provide support during the drawdown phase, to assist in the transfer of continuing peacebuilding support tasks from peace operations to United Nations country teams, aligned to the political accompaniment of the Commission.

33. At its formal meeting held on 11 March, the Organizational Committee elected Malaysia to succeed Rwanda as coordinator of the periodic stocktaking exercise of the Commission's advisory function with respect to and the modality of interaction

with the Security Council. At an informal expert-level meeting held on 20 November, the stocktaking exercise focused on the advisory role of the Commission in connection with the situations in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. The discussion highlighted the important work done by the Commission through some of its configurations and the need to keep the tenor of the relations between the Commission and the Council flexible and pragmatic. Some participants underscored the importance of reinforcing an informal dialogue at several levels in order to strengthen the advisory role of the Commission. The dialogue with the Council's presidency on the planning of forward activities can help ensure that the Commission provides its advice at the appropriate time. Some participants also expressed their view that the Commission's diverse membership and flexible outreach to regional and subregional organizations could play an important role in complementing the work of the Council in country-specific contexts.

34. In connection with thematic and country-specific briefings to the Security Council, the Commission had addressed the Council on a number of occasions. On 19 January, at the Council's debate on inclusive development for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Chair stressed the importance of inclusion as a central aspect of peacebuilding. In this connection, he noted that the Commission was well positioned to provide advice on issues that touched on the concerns of the Council and the General Assembly, such as the ways in which inclusive socioeconomic development contributes to peace and security and reduces the risk of the emergence of or the relapse into violent conflict.

35. On 17 November, the Chair briefed the Council, at its open debate on security, development and the root causes of conflict, in connection with the item entitled "The maintenance of international peace and security". In his briefing, the Chair mentioned three shifts that needed to occur in order to sustain peace. First, preventing lapse and relapse into conflict should move to the forefront of United Nations engagement, and build on the realization that building peace was primarily a political process which required sustained and long-term engagement. In this connection, the Chair noted that the process of building and sustaining peace took time and that there was a need to adjust our horizons by shifting from the standard programme cycles of from 3 to 5 years, to frameworks with a span of from 15 to 30 years. Second, he underlined that peace could only emerge from within societies, and build on inclusive national ownership. The Commission represented a unique and inclusive platform where national authorities had the opportunity to engage with international partners, including regional actors. Finally, the Chair underscored the important role that the Commission could play in facilitating a coherent approach of all international actors to effectively addressing the root causes of conflict.

36. With regard to country-specific briefings, the Chairs of the country-specific configurations provided the Council with substantive updates on key peacebuilding priorities in their respective countries. On Liberia, the Chair continued to underline the need for sustaining and strengthening peacebuilding gains, especially in light of the post-Ebola efforts and the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The Chair also stressed the importance of a more harmonized and integrated framework for addressing those challenges and underlined the important work that the Commission was carrying out in that connection.

37. At his briefing to the Security Council held in early February, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration underscored his optimism with respect to the country at a time when, after decades of political instability, the 2014 elections had brought a general sense of opportunity and forward impetus, despite well-known factors of continuing institutional fragility. The gains of stabilization suffered a serious setback in June, however, when differences between the President of Guinea-Bissau, José Mário Vaz, and the country's Prime Minister, Domingos Simões Pereira, resulted in the President's dismissing the Government over an alleged lack of concrete results in the implementation of reforms. A three-month-long impasse ensued until Carlos Correia was nominated as Prime Minister in September and the confirmation of his cabinet of ministers brought a sense of normality. During the stalemate, the Chair of the configuration raised his concerns to the Council regarding the impact of the political crisis and urged stakeholders to intensify their efforts to restore stability promptly.

38. In addressing the Security Council after visiting Bangui in May, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration advocated for scaling up wider support for efforts to tackle pressing issues in the country, such as the weakness of the judicial system, and the need to strengthen governance structures and institutions, and to foster dialogue, inclusivity and reconciliation across the country. The absence of significant progress in those areas would continue to pose obstacles to maintaining progress in sustaining peace. In this regard, and while recognizing that the end of the transitional period was crucial for the future of the country, the Commission strongly emphasized the urgency of creating an environment conducive to the holding of elections. The Commission's position on the need for institution-building was supported through investments by the Peacebuilding Fund in the restoration of State authority and reconciliation.

39. In January, the Chair briefed the Security Council on Burundi and advised the Council to remain engaged, following the departure of the United Nations mission. During his visit to Burundi in November, the Chair briefed the Council from Bujumbura on the situation in the country — and at a critical moment inasmuch as the Council was preparing to adopt a resolution. He reiterated the Commission's call to end the ongoing violence and human rights violations; cautioned against inflammatory rhetoric; and expressed hope that the Government would engage in an inclusive and genuine dialogue process with the goal of restoring the trust of the people of Burundi. The Commission was backed in its advocacy for dialogue with financing from the Peacebuilding Fund for a variety of dialogue initiatives with civil society and women at the country level.

E. Develop a strategy to strengthen the gender perspective in country-specific engagement

40. To strengthen and operationalize its commitments on gender equality, as affirmed, for example, in the declaration of the members of the Commission on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding of 26 September 2013 (PBC/7/OC/3), and ensure a more structural integration of gender aspects in its work, the Commission decided in the forward agenda set out in its report on the eighth session (para. 71) that in 2015, it would initiate a discussion on a strategy for mainstreaming a gender perspective in its country-specific engagement (hereinafter referred to as the "gender strategy"). The objective would be to strengthen the

Commission's engagement on gender-related aspects of peacebuilding in countries on its agenda and to provide for a framework for generating and disseminating knowledge in the area of women's participation in peacebuilding. Once elaborated through a consultative process and endorsed by the Commission, the strategy would help support the implementation of the commitments of the Secretary-General and Member States on gender-responsive peacebuilding.

41. The first phase of the development of the gender strategy was undertaken in late 2015: it aimed at capturing existing knowledge and practices in countries on the Commission's agenda through a light desk review which led to a brief series of case studies on the Commission's engagement on gender equality and women's empowerment. The key finding emanating from this first phase was that the Commission's engagement on gender issues, while uneven, has increased in recent years. All current instruments of engagement by the existing country configuration recognize, with varying degrees of emphasis, the role that women play in building peace. However, translating formal commitments into concrete action has not been systematic and often relies on the personal engagement of the Chair. At the same time, Commission field-level action, such as meetings with women civil society organizations and national leaders such as gender ministers, could also better feed into the work of the configurations and of the Commission at large. Strong gender capacities on the ground are also the condition for dedicated quality programming on gender and peacebuilding which can help turn policy commitments into action and has also proved capable of feeding into a greater strategic leverage of discussions on gender and peacebuilding. Some of the key entry points for the Commission's improvement of its work on gender equality and women's participation include: strengthening the integration of gender issues in all of the Commission's instruments of engagement and their reviews; regularizing in-country consultations with women from civil society and the national gender machinery; increasing the advocacy role of the Commission on the importance of dedicated gender expertise and funding at the country level; and facilitating regular briefings and provision of gender-sensitive analysis of country-specific situations to the Commission at global and country levels.

42. Following up on the desk review, the Commission agreed that a second phase of the development of the strategy will take place in 2016, on the basis of the country-based knowledge-building and analysis undertaken in 2015. The full-fledged strategy would identify a series of priority interventions for the Commission in its engagement on gender equality and women's participation at the country level, together with the key messages that should be systematically promoted by the Commission at both the global and the country level. The roll-out of the strategy is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2016.

F. Improve the working methods of the Commission

43. It has been increasingly recognized that, in order to allow for the active engagement and participation of each member of the Commission, there is a need for a predictable, transparent and long-term calendar of Commission meetings and activities. Therefore, at the first meeting of the Organizational Committee of the ninth session, the Chair, the Chairs of the configurations and the Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned presented the calendar of work of the Committee for the period extending up to August. A similar initiative was taken in

September by the Chair, who presented the workplan, extending until the end of the year, of the Organizational Committee and that of the Liberia configuration.

44. The Commission has also improved the quality of its flexible and light engagement by introducing ad hoc country-specific meetings within the framework of the Organizational Committee. In response to specific requests for advice from the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Burkina Faso and Somalia, the Commission convened three meetings which, by bringing together the country concerned, the membership of the Commission, regional actors and United Nations entities, demonstrated the relevance of the Commission as a broad-based platform for policy development.

45. The meeting on Papua New Guinea sought to highlight good practices arising from United Nations engagement in the country with the support of Peacebuilding Fund financing. In respect of key peacebuilding needs identified by the Government of Papua New Guinea, particularly in the area of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, the rapid provision of catalytic and responsive support enabled through funds allocated by the Fund was well recognized.

46. With respect to the Peacebuilding Fund, an informal discussion was held regarding the possibility that countries declared formally eligible by the Secretary-General to access the Fund would engage to varying degrees with the Organizational Committee. This engagement could take the form of an initial briefing on the motivations and plans of the country in terms of the peacebuilding assistance that it seeks, along with an occasional update.

47. The Commission provided an inclusive platform to the authorities of Burkina Faso for sharing their experiences with regard to the political transition in place following the popular uprising of 2014. It was noted that the priorities for the transitional Government included ensuring the continuity of the State, the organization of free and credible elections, social cohesion and national reconciliation. The representatives of Burkina Faso underlined, however, that the support of the international community for the upcoming elections and beyond would be crucial. Several participants noted that the meeting constituted a good example of how a more flexible Commission, which brings together national authorities, regional partners and United Nations actors, could lead to a noticeable improvement in the Commission's exercise of its advisory functions as related to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

48. The meeting on Somalia, which was organized as a follow-up to the second annual session of the Commission, offered an important opportunity to discuss the issue of predictable funding for peacebuilding through its focus on a concrete case study. The Commission discussed how pooled funding through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, in cooperation with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, represented an important model of how to ensure coordination, reduce fragmentation and usher in sustainable peace. How the Peacebuilding Fund funded priority areas as identified by the government-led planning process was highlighted, as well as how a mechanism to pass funds directly through government accounts was developed. This mechanism, designed in explicit collaboration with the World Bank, provided the Government with the opportunity to demonstrate its capacity to manage funds, thus building confidence with other donors. The Commission noted that national ownership, solid national institutions and a strong leadership on the ground were essential.

49. Addressing the peacebuilding-related implications of the Ebola crisis represented another way in which the Commission can be engaged. The continued interaction among the Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone configurations throughout the Ebola crisis, under the leadership of the Chair of the Commission, had constituted an important platform, from the outset of and during the crisis, for discussing and raising international awareness on the impact of the Ebola outbreak on long-term peacebuilding.

50. The Commission further consolidated existing practices of meetings in different formats according to the content and scope of the issues being discussed. In some configurations, discussions at the technical level were used to prepare for ambassadorial-level meetings. The Commission also used informal settings to iron out issues and mobilize specialized inputs in the preparation of ambassadorial-level policy meetings.

G. Emerging cross-cutting issues

51. In November, the Commission convened a meeting on young people's role in sustaining peace, which provided an opportunity for Member States to exchange views on recent developments in the field of youth and peacebuilding, stemming from the thematic debate on the role of youth in countering violent extremism and promoting peace, organized by Jordan during its presidency of the Security Council in April 2015, and the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, held in Amman in August 2015 and co-organized by the United Nations and partners from civil society organizations. At the meeting, the Commission was briefed by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth on the outcomes of the Global Forum and the importance of recognizing the active role that young women and men play in building sustainable peace in their countries, often with little recognition or support. A young woman from Liberia, representing a youth-led peacebuilding organization, expressed her views on the challenges for young peacebuilders as they strove to secure a place at the peace table and achieve recognition as strategic partners rather than as members of implementing organizations, and on the continued lack of accessible funding for grass-roots youth organizations. The Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security, developed by over 10,000 young people, spells out young people's demand for a policy framework recognizing young peacebuilders' work and for greater programmatic and funding support.

52. States members of the Commission reflected on the active role that young people can and do play in their own countries and shared experiences regarding promising approaches. They expressed support for the work of young peacebuilders and affirmed the importance of high-level policy discussions on the role of young people in the efforts to achieve peace and security.

53. Institution-building as a key requirement for sustaining peace was another important focus of the Commission's work during the reporting period. Under the auspices of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, the Commission convened a number of discussions with a view to drawing lessons from the experience in countries on its agenda, as well as Afghanistan, on how the United Nations system could better support the strengthening of national institutions. The Commission's comparative strength lies in the long-term endeavour to lay the groundwork for sustaining peace. Focusing on the extension of State authority and the strengthening

of political institutions as being the specific challenges of institution-building, the Commission drew a number of lessons on how to better support institution-building in post-conflict countries, on how to further develop partnerships between the United Nations and international and regional financial institutions, and on the role of the Commission in that connection. The Commission placed particular emphasis on the fact that institution-building should be rooted in inclusive political agreements based on strong national ownership and inclusivity, which required time and adequate financial, political and technical support. This emphasis both derives from and inspires the continued investments of the Peacebuilding Fund in these areas, for example, through support for the security sector and public administration in the Central African Republic, support for the redeployment of State authority and national human rights institutions in Burundi, support for the rule of law in Liberia and support for local political dialogue in countries that are not Commission members such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

54. With regard to the extension of State authority, provision of law and order through, for example, the justice system, the police and correctional services, and provision of basic services to citizens by State institutions and establishment of trust between the State and the population, were all strongly interlinked. With regard to the rebuilding of political institutions, decision-making processes needed to be carried out based on good governance through fair elections and inclusive reconciliation. In connection with both, inclusivity was an indispensable element needed to ensure sustainable peace; and in this regard, inclusion of civil society, inter alia, youth groups, was crucial. In the discussion of the Working Group on Lessons Learned on institution-building, some members of the Commission also stressed the importance of conflict prevention and addressing of root causes at the earliest possible stage, as well as the need to integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of institution-building. In addressing how the international community could better support national authorities in strengthening their institutions, the Commission noted that the United Nations system needed to move towards a more coordinated and coherent approach, working with international financial institutions and, most importantly, regional and subregional organizations. The Commission was recognized as an important actor which could bring together a broad range of actors, ranging from Member States to regional organizations and the civil society, and strengthen support to missions and in non-mission settings. Based on the discussions conducted during the year, the Working Group put together a report on institution-building: the challenges for the United Nations system (information available at the Peacebuilding Commission website).

55. In view of developments in countries on the Commission's agenda, and building on the discussions convened by the Commission in 2014, the issue of transitions has become increasingly relevant for the country-specific work of the Commission. In Liberia, with the ongoing drawdown of UNMIL, and as the country had entered a new phase of peace consolidation aimed towards sustainable peace, the Commission invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations on an updated framework of engagement between the Commission and the Government (see PBC/9/LBR/2).

56. In Sierra Leone, consultations on the Commission's mode and type of engagement in line with its own transition plan evolved before and during the United Nations transition process. These discussions were overshadowed by the critical need for the Government and the international community to focus on the

immediate health crisis and find a long-term response to the Ebola outbreak. The latter was achieved through the collective and joint efforts of the Chair of the Commission and the configurations of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

III. Conclusions and agenda going forward

57. The next reporting period for the Commission will coincide with the implementation of the comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture led by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Commission will consider the practical ways in which it could implement the recommendations and decisions reflected in any of the resolutions that may be adopted in this regard by the Assembly and the Council. At the same time, and without prejudging the outcome of the review, the Commission will continue to pursue several important work streams which could further strengthen its country-specific and policy-related engagements.

Follow-up to the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture

58. Following the completion of the intergovernmental phase of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Commission, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, will reflect upon how to improve its working methods, in line with recommendations.

Action

- The Organizational Committee will convene informal discussions on how to take forward the outcomes of the review of the peacebuilding architecture. These informal discussions will elaborate on suggestions for concrete reforms of the work of the Commission and its role in sustaining peace, following up on the work initiated during its ninth session.

Follow-up to the second annual session and preparation of the third annual session (June 2016)

59. The follow-up to the second annual session will be carried forward in 2016. The follow-up exercise will guide the Commission's preparation for the third annual session, including on the selection of a theme that would help further elaborate on the identified policy areas requiring further development.

Action

- The Organizational Committee will convene informal discussions with the participation of interested members, relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions, regional organizations and development banks.
- These informal discussions will explore those specific policy areas requiring further elaboration during the third annual session.

Integrate the perspectives of regional actors

60. The Commission will continue to place particular emphasis on engaging and collaborating with regional actors in policy-related and country-specific activities.

Action

- The Organizational Committee will consult with the African caucus in follow-up to the visit undertaken by the Chair and the Chairs of the Burundi, Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau configurations to African Union headquarters on 26 November 2014. The purpose of the follow-up will be to ensure that the agreed areas of policy-related and country-specific collaboration are activated.
- The Organizational Committee will continue to discuss proposals on how to forge more effective partnerships and coherence between African regional actors, in particular the regional economic communities, the United Nations and international financial institutions.
- The country configurations will continue to engage its members from Africa, including through but not limited to the African caucus, the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, in support of the agreed peacebuilding priorities and objectives for each country on the agenda.

Focus and sustain attention on the long-term impacts of the Ebola outbreak

61. The Commission will continue to monitor and raise awareness on the impact of the Ebola outbreak on peacebuilding, including in the areas of security, local governance, political institutions, social cohesion and economic recovery, taking into consideration a comprehensive, regional and longer-term approach.

Action

- The Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone configurations will continue to explore how to best support the efforts of the countries, the United Nations and the international community, based on national and regional priority areas for each country and subregion during the post-Ebola recovery period, particularly through the implementation of their Ebola recovery plans and longer-term national plans.
- The three configurations will continue to update the members of the Organizational Committee periodically on the results of its advocacy and accompanied efforts, and will explore the need for collective messaging from the Commission, including through statements, as appropriate.

Improve the advisory function with regard to and the modality of interaction with the General Assembly and the Security Council

62. The Commission will explore means to improve its advisory function with regard to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Action

- The Organizational Committee will draw upon the main findings of the stocktaking exercise, undertaken in 2015, of its advisory function with regard to the Security Council and consider practical ways in which to implement the recommendations. To this end, the Committee will designate one of the Commission's members on the Council to succeed Malaysia in coordinating the periodic stocktaking exercise.
- The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Security Council in preparation for the convening of the fifth informal interactive dialogue, which can be held in conjunction with the upcoming annual briefing to the Council on the present report.
- The Chairs of relevant country configurations will continue to ensure that upon the request of the Security Council, their periodic formal briefings to the Council on the countries concerned will be synchronized with the timing of their field visits and will be focused on specific areas to which the Council's attention has been drawn.

Finalize and implement the strategy to strengthen the gender perspective in country-specific engagement

63. The Commission will continue to carry forward the development of a practical approach to its thematic focus on women's participation in peacebuilding.

Action

- The Organizational Committee will finalize and implement the gender strategy to assist in integrating a gender perspective into its country-specific engagement, within the framework of performing its three core functions.

Improve the working methods

64. The Commission will continue to explore possible improvements in outstanding areas of its working methods which would enhance the clarity of its objectives and the predictability of its calendar and activities.

Action

- Starting in mid-February 2016, the Organizational Committee will share an indicative calendar, timeline and progress in the implementation of the actions stipulated in this forward agenda.
- By mid-February 2016, the Commission will share basic outlines and planned activities on country-specific and thematic objectives and activities for the year.
- By 30 June 2016, the Chair will initiate the process described in the aide-memoire circulated to the Organizational Committee on 3 December, which indicates important steps to be taken to ensure that election to the membership of the Organizational Committee has been completed, with no delays, by the beginning of each session.

United Nations S/2016/116

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 February 2016
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 4 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In connection with the letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, Mr. Y. Halit Çevik, regarding "another violation of Turkish airspace by a Russian combat aircraft" which allegedly took place on 29 January 2016, and in response to the continuing allegations of the Turkish authorities, we would like to draw attention to the following points.

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation fully clarified the baseless accusations made by the Turkish authorities during a briefing held on 1 February 2016. We reiterate: there was no violation of Turkish air borders by any aircraft from the Russian Aerospace Defence Forces in Syria, as shown by all objective control data for flights over northern Syria. Ankara has yet to provide any factual or objective evidence to substantiate its allegations. A direct request to provide such information, from the Russian Embassy in Ankara to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Turkey, went unanswered. The note received from the Foreign Service of that country describing the coordinates of the "incident", and the similar démarche of the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, cannot serve as unbiased proof to support Ankara's claims.

It is notable, against this backdrop, that the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and high-ranking officials in Turkey have considered themselves entitled to threaten Russia, to blackmail it with "serious consequences" and to claim "escalatory behaviour" by Russia in the regional situation. It is Ankara, however, that is pursuing the course towards escalation set on 24 November 2015.

In the context of its provocative stance, including in the letter of its Permanent Representative, Turkey blames Russia for declining to organize a telephone conversation between President Erdoğan of Turkey and President Putin of the Russian Federation. Given the Turkish leadership's refusal to acknowledge responsibility for downing a Russian plane outside the territory of Turkey and for the death of our soldiers, we consider its provocative attempt to use new allegations of a "violation" of airspace as a pretext for resuming direct dialogue to be nothing more than propaganda.

We have requested objective control data from the leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in connection with statements by the Turkish authorities that NATO detected the violation first. However, we have received no

hard evidence there either. There is nothing to substantiate the information mentioned by Mr. Çavuşoğlu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and which is also contained in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Turkey dated 3 February 2016, regarding the "violation" that was "detected" by the NATO Combined Air Operations Centre in Spain.

We call on the members of the Security Council and on the entire international community to take a sober and balanced approach to Turkey's accusations. The continuing attacks against Russia by Ankara must not distract attention from Turkey's destructive actions in relation to Syria, including in the area of counter-terrorism and efforts within the framework of intra-Syrian negotiations.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

United Nations S/2016/117

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 4 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council the statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea of 3 February 2016 on North Korea's plan to launch a long-range missile (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Oh** Joon
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on North Korea's plan to launch a long-range missile

1. It has been confirmed that North Korea informed the relevant international institutions, including the International Maritime Organization, on 2 February 2016, of its plan to launch a long-range missile, claiming it a satellite launch.

2. North Korea's notification of its plan to launch a long-range missile while a Security Council sanction resolution on its recent nuclear test is being discussed is a direct challenge to the entire international community.

3. North Korea must clearly recognize that any launch using ballistic missile technology is a flagrant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and should immediately retract this plan.

4. The Government of the Republic of Korea strictly warns North Korea that it will face a harsh response from the international community if it pushes ahead with the launch, which poses a grave threat to peace and security not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in North-East Asia and the wider world.

5. The Government of the Republic of Korea will maintain a watertight posture of readiness against any provocation by North Korea, including a long-range missile launch, which threatens the security of the Republic of Korea and the lives of its people.

United Nations S/2016/118

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 5 February 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 28 January 2016, from the Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Alexander Vershbow, transmitting the quarterly report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

16-01618 (E) 090216

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Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2015. I would appreciate you making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Vershbow**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report is provided in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 October to 31 December 2015.

2. As at 31 December 2015, the total number of Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops in theatre remained at approximately 4,600.

3. The main event during the reporting period was the full relaxation of the air safety zone above the Administrative Boundary Line.

Security situation and operations

4. During the reporting period, the security situation in theatre remained calm in the southern part of Kosovo and reasonably stable in the northern part. The ongoing implementation of the European Union-facilitated First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations reached by Belgrade and Pristina on 19 April 2013 continues to have a positive impact on the security situation, and freedom of movement remains unimpeded throughout Kosovo.

5. During the reporting period, KFOR has continued to work in close coordination with the Kosovo police and the European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). KFOR remained ready to provide immediate intervention if required. However, there was no requirement for its direct intervention as a third responder.

6. There were no militarily significant public order or other security incidents during the reporting period.

7. The mission of KFOR to contribute to a safe and secure environment and to freedom of movement has continued as part of a comprehensive international effort.

Summary

8. During the reporting period, KFOR has continued to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement, in close coordination with EULEX and the Kosovo police. The close coordination on the ground between KFOR, in its capacity as a third responder, EULEX and the Kosovo police continues to be highly effective.

United Nations S/2016/119

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 5 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform that on Wednesday, 3 February 2016, armed terrorist groups indiscriminately fired shells at residential neighbourhoods in a number of Syrian governorates.

In the morning of Wednesday, 3 February, armed terrorist groups indiscriminately fired dozens of mortar shells and rockets at the peaceful residential neighbourhoods of Dar'a city. The attack occurred at the busiest time of the morning, just as civilians and students were heading to their jobs and schools. Seventeen civilians were killed and 101 others, including women and children, sustained injuries of varying severity. The attack also caused tremendous material damage to the homes, shops and infrastructure of the areas that were targeted.

The armed terrorist groups also indiscriminately fired shells at some peaceful residential neighbourhoods in Aleppo city, causing 10 civilians to sustain injuries of varying severity. Terrorists from the so-called Army of Islam indiscriminately fired a hail of shells at the residential suburb of Harasta in Rif Dimashq governorate. One staff member of the secondary school in that suburb was killed and two others injured when a shell struck the school. A child in the town of Si'in, Hamah governorate, was gravely injured when a shell fired by the armed terrorist groups fell near him.

Those indiscriminate attacks against peaceful residential neighbourhoods in a number of Syrian cities are a continuation of the terrorist crimes being committed by armed terrorist groups that are referred to as "the moderate armed opposition" by the regimes and Governments that support and finance them. Those "moderate groups" have recently stepped up their indiscriminate terrorist attacks on the orders of their masters in Riyadh, Doha and Ankara, as well as certain others parties that are known to the international community. Such attacks caused, only a few days ago, the third Geneva conference to be delayed. Looking to the near future, they will also undermine efforts aimed at launching an intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership. This indiscriminate shelling is also meant to lift the morale of the terrorists, who are withering before the forces of the Syrian Arab Army, which is fighting terrorism on behalf of the States of the world.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the Security Council must take stern measures against the regimes and the Governments of the

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States that support and finance terrorism, in implementation of the Council's relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2016/120

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 5 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of resolution 7988, adopted at a meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States held at the ministerial level on 10 January 2016 on the breaches by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the inviolability of the embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and of its general consulate in Mashhad (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Osama Abdelkhalek **Mahmoud**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

16-01863 (E) 110216 110216

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Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution 7988 of 10 January 2016 adopted at an extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level. The resolution condemns Iran's breach of the inviolability of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate-General in the city of Mashhad. It holds the Iranian Republic responsible for the incidents and demands that it comply with international conventions and instruments, particularly the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963). The Council of the League also condemns the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its ongoing interference in the internal affairs of Arab States.

At the request of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, and in view of the importance of the topic, I should be grateful if you would take note of the annexed resolution, transmit it to the States members of the Security Council and have it issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nabil **Elaraby**
Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

Enclosure

Iran's breaches of the inviolability of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate-General in Mashhad

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting at the ministerial level in an extraordinary session on 10 January 2016 at the headquarters of the League Secretariat in Cairo under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates,

Noting that the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate-General in Mashhad have been attacked, raided and looted, in a flagrant violation of international norms and conventions, and that the Iranian Government did not take the necessary action to prevent the incidents,

Recalling that the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) provide that the premises and members of diplomatic missions are inviolable, and that host States have an obligation to provide them with the necessary protection against any assault or harm,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States, which assert the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and prohibit interference in their internal affairs,

Acting pursuant to the resolutions of the Council of the League at the summit level on maintaining the security of Arab States as the fundamental guarantee of Arab national security, most recently the Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on preserving Arab national security in the face of current challenges (26 (15/3) 31 – *'ayn* 170),

Acting pursuant to resolution 7940 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, adopted at the second meeting of the 144th ordinary session on 13 September 2015, regarding Iran's interference in the affairs of neighbouring Arab States,

Determined to defend Arab national security and the territorial integrity of Arab States against all forms of interference in their internal affairs and all violations of their sovereignty and territorial integrity,

Reaffirming the principle of good-neighbourly relations,

Recalling the Security Council press statement issued on 4 January 2016 condemning Iran's breach of the inviolability of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate-General in Mashhad,

Having considered the memorandum dated 4 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia,

Having heard the statements of the distinguished Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To condemn the breach of the inviolability of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate-General in Mashhad, to hold the Islamic Republic of Iran responsible for the incidents, and to demand that it comply with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963);

2. To deplore and condemn Iran's hostile and inflammatory statements against Saudi Arabia regarding judicial sentences that were carried out in respect of a number of terrorists, and to deem those statements a barefaced act of interference in the judicial system and internal affairs of Saudi Arabia, and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. To affirm its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia as it confronts Iran's acts of hostility and provocation, and to support the efforts of Saudi Arabia to combat terrorism and uphold security and stability in the region;

4. To condemn the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its ongoing interference in the internal affairs of Arab States in recent decades, and to stress that such an approach undermines the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf region and contravenes international law and the principle of good-neighbourly relations;

5. To demand that the Iranian Government refrain from any acts of provocation or hostile statements that could endanger and undermine security and stability in the region;

6. To condemn Iran's ongoing occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa); to reaffirm categorically that the United Arab Emirates has full sovereignty over the islands; and to express its support for all peaceful means and measures chosen by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over the islands which, according to international law, are under occupation;

7. To condemn Iran's ongoing interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its support for groups that pose a serious threat to that country's security and stability;

8. To denounce Iran's intervention in the Syrian crisis, which has had serious repercussions for the future of Syria and its security, stability, national unity and territorial integrity, and to emphasize that such intervention is detrimental to efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through peaceful means in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012;

9. To denounce Iran's intervention in the internal affairs of Yemen and its backing of forces opposed to the legitimate Government of Yemen, a stance that has affected the security and stability of Yemen, neighbouring countries and the region as a whole;

10. To urge the Iranian Government to avoid policies that exacerbate sectarian and confessional conflict, and to refrain from supporting groups that promote such conflict in the States of the Arabian Gulf;

11. To call on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring an end to its support for armed militias and parties within Arab States, and to deem such support to be a threat to Arab national security;

12. To emphasize that cooperative relations between Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran must be based on the principle of good-neighbourly relations; further to emphasize the need to uphold stability and security in neighbouring States and refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of States;

13. To request that the Secretary-General of the League liaise with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to

follow up developments in the crisis with the Islamic Republic of Iran, examine responses to Iran's acts of interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, and report on those matters to the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its forthcoming session;

14. To request that the Secretary-General of the League transmit the present resolution to the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council;

15. To request that the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Arab member of the Security Council, follow up the issue within the Security Council.

(Resolution 7988 — extraordinary session — 10 January 2016)

Position of the Lebanese Republic: In accordance with the position of Lebanon as expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Gebran Bassil, at the meeting of the Council of the League at the ministerial level in an extraordinary session on 10 January 2016, and underscoring its respect for Arab solidarity while remaining committed to the Lebanese Government's policy of refraining from involvement in analogous crises, Lebanon has abstained from voting on the present resolution.

United Nations S/2016/121

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council the statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea of 7 February 2016 on North Korea's long-range missile launch (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Oh** Joon
Permanent Representative

16-01660 (E) 110216

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on North Korea's long-range missile launch

The Government of the Republic of Korea strongly condemns North Korea's long-range missile launch on 7 February 2016 from the Tongchang-ri missile launch site, North Pyongan province, in spite of repeated warnings by the international community.

North Korea's long-range missile launch, which was carried out during ongoing discussions on a Security Council sanction resolution regarding North Korea's recent nuclear test, is not only a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions but also an extreme act of provocation once again committed solely to maintain the North Korean regime, neglecting the lives of its people and disregarding the international community's earnest desire for peace.

The Government of the Republic of Korea and the international community have made various proposals, including the Six-Party Talks, to make North Korea come to the dialogue table, but North Korea has not responded at all to such proposals.

This has resulted in allowing North Korea to buy time to advance its nuclear capabilities. Now the only way to make North Korea give up its nuclear development is to cooperate closely with the international community to adopt significant and strong sanctions, including Security Council resolutions, so as to make North Korea give up its nuclear programmes.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will not only make all-out efforts to adopt strong sanction measures at the Security Council but also continue to impose necessary pressure so that North Korea will have no option but to change.

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Korea will put the Republic of Korea Armed Forces at a watertight posture of readiness to respond to North Korean nuclear and missile threats and take substantial measures to bolster its security capability at the Republic of Korea-United States of America alliance level.

United Nations S/2016/122

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith for sharing with other Security Council members the attached communiqué on the situation in Burundi adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 571st meeting, held on 29 January 2016, at the level of Heads of State and Government (see annex).

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

16-01664 (E) 100216

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 571st meeting, held on 29 January 2016, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in Burundi:

Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission (PSC/AHG/(DLXXI)) on the evolution of the situation in Burundi. Council also takes note of the statements made by the Second Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Joseph Butore, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Augustine P. Mahiga, in his capacity as the representative of the current Chair of the East African Community and the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, and as the representative of the East African Community mediator, H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Council further takes note of the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. Reiterates the concern of the African Union about the political situation, as well as the insecurity and violence, obtaining in Burundi;

3. Reaffirms the strong condemnation by the African Union of all acts of violence, whoever be the perpetrators, and of the persistence of impunity, and demands that all parties put an immediate end to all these attacks, violations of human rights and other abuses carried out against civilians and the security forces;

4. Reiterates the commitment of the African Union to respect the independence and territorial integrity of Burundi, and therefore condemns the armed attacks against its military structures, as well as any destabilization attempt, whatever be the origin, nature or the author;

5. Welcomes the steps taken by the Commission within the framework of the implementation of its relevant decisions on the situation in Burundi, particularly the support to the mediation led by Uganda and the mobilization of the international community to facilitate a coordinated action in support of the search for a peaceful solution to the current crisis;

6. Congratulates Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Mediator in the Burundi crisis, on behalf of the East African Community, on the measures taken for the relaunching of the inclusive dialogue on 28 December 2015 in Entebbe and reiterates its support to him and for the continuation of the dialogue. Council reiterates its call on all the Burundian stakeholders, both Government and opposition groups, to fully cooperate with and show the utmost respect for the mediation;

7. Stresses, once again, the imperative need for the inter-Burundian dialogue to be genuine and all-inclusive, without preconditions, and focus on all the issues on which there is disagreement between the Burundian stakeholders. Council urges all Burundian stakeholders to respond, unconditionally and without delay, to the call by

the Mediator for the continuation of the dialogue in Arusha, Tanzania. As such, Council requests the Facilitator to conclude, as soon as possible, his consultations with the Government of Burundi and with other stakeholders in the inter-Burundian dialogue for its immediate resumption;

8. Welcomes the support of the region for the mediation efforts led by H.E. President Museveni. In this regard, Council welcomes the convening of the informal ministerial meeting organized by Tanzania, Chair of the East African Community, held in Arusha, on 6 January 2016, which was attended by the representatives of Uganda, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Secretary-General of the East African Community and the African Union;

9. Also welcomes the increasing mobilization of the international community, in particular the dispatch of a mission of the United Nations Security Council, which visited Burundi from 21 to 22 January 2016 and met with the main actors in the crisis, including the President of the Republic;

10. Takes note of the announcement made by the delegation of Burundi that the Government of Burundi rejects the deployment of the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi. Council also takes note of the announcement made by the delegation of Burundi of the commitment of the Government of Burundi to an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, as relaunched on 28 December 2015, in Entebbe, by President Museveni, East African Community Mediator, with the support of the African Union;

11. Council, in the light of the foregoing:

(a) Decides not to deploy the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi because it considers it premature to send such a force to Burundi and that an inclusive political dialogue must be supported under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Uganda;

(b) Also decides to dispatch a high-level delegation to Burundi to meet with the highest authorities of the Republic of Burundi, as well as with other Burundian stakeholders, to hold consultations on the inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue;

12. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to take all the necessary initiatives to enable the expeditious mobilization of international assistance in support of the inter-Burundian dialogue;

13. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations, the European Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other international partners for their multifarious support to the inter-Burundian dialogue, under the auspices of President Museveni, and urges them to continue their support;

14. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently take all necessary initiatives to facilitate the efforts of the ongoing mediation, including the mobilization of the necessary financial and technical resources;

15. Reiterates its appreciation to the neighbouring countries hosting Burundian refugees, particularly Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, and appeals to the international community to continue and increase its assistance in order to alleviate the suffering of Burundian refugees;

16. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit the present communiqué to all Member States and to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council for its action, as appropriate;

17. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2016/123

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 February 2016

Original: English

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements of its President concerning Sudan,

Reaffirming its commitment to the cause of peace throughout Sudan, to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan, and to the full and timely implementation of resolution 1591 (2005), and recalling the importance of the principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region, and *recalling* that the Government of Sudan bears the primary responsibility for protecting all populations within its territory, with respect for the rule of law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law,

Reiterating the need for an end to the violence and continued abuses in Darfur, *underscoring* the importance of fully addressing the root causes of the conflict in the search for a sustainable peace, and *recognizing* that the Darfur conflict cannot be resolved militarily and a durable solution can only be obtained through an inclusive political process,

Noting the importance of the work of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), the aims of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), and the stated commitment of the Government of Sudan to an inclusive national dialogue building on the AUHIP's ongoing peace efforts, and *calling* for an environment conducive to that national dialogue,

Expressing deep concern at the increased violence and insecurity in Darfur in recent months, including fighting between the government and armed groups and intercommunal fighting, *expressing deep concern* that such violence has had an adverse effect on the security situation, has contributed to the significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons observed in 2014, and continues to restrict humanitarian access to conflict areas where vulnerable civilian populations reside, and *reaffirming* the crucial need to address the urgent humanitarian crisis faced by the people of Darfur, including by facilitating safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas by humanitarian agencies and personnel, consistent with the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and the relevant provisions of international law,

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Emphasizing the imperative for all armed actors to refrain from all acts of violence against civilians, in particular members of vulnerable groups such as women and children, and to end all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and *further emphasizing* that some of these acts may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity under international law,

Expressing concern about the external links, in particular military, between non-signatory armed groups in Darfur and groups outside Darfur, and demanding that direct or indirect military support for such armed groups in Darfur ceases, and *condemning* actions by any armed group aimed at forced overthrow of the Government of Sudan, noting there is no military solution to the conflict in Sudan,

Demanding that the parties to the conflict exercise restraint and cease military action of all kind, including aerial bombardments,

Recalling its resolution 2117 (2013) and *expressing concern* at the threat to peace and security in Darfur arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the use of such weapons against civilians affected by armed conflict, and the continued threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance,

Deploring the continued violations of resolution 1591 (2005) by the Government of Sudan, including its Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and government-affiliated armed groups involving the routine movement of weapons and ammunition into Darfur, without prior authorization of the 1591 committee,

Demanding an immediate and complete cessation by all parties to the armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians, recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, other violations and abuses against children, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians, in line with all relevant resolutions on these issues,

Reaffirming its concern over the negative effect of ongoing violence in Darfur on the stability of Sudan as a whole, as well as the region, *welcoming* the ongoing good relations between Sudan and Chad, and *encouraging* Sudan and the countries of the region to continue to cooperate in order to achieve peace and stability in Darfur and the wider region,

Deploring the violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses committed by Government of Sudan security forces, their proxies, and armed groups, including those opposing the Government of Sudan, especially at the Khor Abeche Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp and at Taweisha, North Darfur, as reported by the Panel of Experts,

Expresses concern at the continued obstacles imposed by the Government of Sudan on the work of the Panel of Experts during the course of its mandate, including restrictions to the freedom of movement of the Panel of Experts, and limitations on access to areas of armed conflict and areas of reported violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law,

Welcoming improved cooperation between the Government of Sudan and the Panel of Experts, *encouraging* increased cooperation by the Government of Sudan to accede to requests from the Panel for access to areas of armed conflict and for

information, and *reiterating* its call on all parties in Darfur to cooperate fully with the mission, including by ensuring its free and unfettered access,

Recalling the report (S/2015/31) by the Panel of Experts, and *expressing its intent* to further study, through the Committee, the Panel's recommendations and to consider appropriate next steps,

Emphasizing the need to respect the provisions of the United Nations Charter concerning privileges and immunities, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, as applicable to United Nations operations and persons engaged in such operations,

Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime, including the key role that neighbouring states, as well as regional and subregional organizations, can play in this regard, and *encouraging* efforts to further enhance cooperation,

Reminding all States, particularly States in the region, including the Government of Sudan, of the obligations contained in resolutions 1556 (2004), 1591 (2005), and 1945 (2010), in particular those obligations relating to arms and related materiel,

Calling on the Government of Sudan to fulfil all its commitments, including lifting the state of emergency in Darfur, allowing free expression and undertaking effective efforts to ensure accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, by whomsoever perpetrated,

Noting that acts of hostility, violence or intimidation against the civilian population, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), in Darfur, endanger or undermine the Parties' commitment to a complete and durable cessation of hostilities, and would be inconsistent with the aims of the DDPD,

Determining that the situation in Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts, originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) and previously extended by resolutions 1651 (2005), 1665 (2006), 1713 (2006), 1779 (2007), 1841 (2008), and 1891 (2009), 1945 (2010), 1982 (2011), 2035 (2012), 2091 (2013), 2138 (2014), and 2200 (2015) until 12 March 2017, *expresses its intent* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 13 February 2017, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures, including basing arrangements, as expeditiously as possible;

2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide no later than 12 August 2016, a midterm update on its work to the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 1591 (2005) (hereinafter "the Committee") and a final report no later than 13 January 2017 to the Council with its findings and recommendations;

3. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide updates every three months to the Committee regarding its activities, including Panel travel, and *requests* that any obstacles encountered to the fulfilment of its mandate, as well as violations of any part of the sanctions regime be reported immediately;

4. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to report, in the timeframe identified in paragraph 3, on the implementation and effectiveness of paragraph 10 of resolution 1945 (2010);

5. *Reiterates* its support for the efforts of the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Secretary-General, the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP), the Joint Special Representative, and the leaders of the region to promote peace and stability in Darfur;

Arms Embargo

6. *Expresses its concern* that the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Sudan of technical assistance and support, including training, financial or other assistance and the provision of spare parts, weapons systems and related materiel, could be used by the Government of Sudan to support military aircraft being used in violation of resolutions 1556 (2004) and 1591 (2005), including those aircraft identified by the panel, and urges all States to be mindful of this risk in light of the measures contained in resolution 1591 (2005);

7. *Recalls* the Government of Sudan's obligations under resolution 1591 (2005), including the requirement to request advance approval from the Committee for the movement of military equipment and supplies into the Darfur region;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of Sudan to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, and misuse of small arms and light weapons in Darfur, which also contributes to instability in the region, and *further* to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked, or illicitly held weapons and ammunition;

9. *Expresses* its concern that certain items continue to be converted for military purposes and transferred to Darfur, and urges all States to be mindful of this risk in light of the measures contained in resolution 1591 (2005);

Implementation

10. *Condemns* the continued violations of the measures contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2004) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), as updated in paragraph 9 of resolution 1945 (2010) and 4 of resolution 2035 (2012) and *directs* the Committee, in line with its mandate and guidelines, to consult as soon as possible with any Member State about which the Committee deems there is credible information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the State is facilitating such violations or any other acts of non-compliance with these measures;

11. *Expresses its concern* that the travel ban and asset freeze on designated individuals is not being implemented by all Member States, *requests* the Panel to share with the Committee any information regarding possible non-compliance with the travel ban and asset freeze as soon as possible, and *directs* the Committee to respond effectively to any reports of non-compliance by Member States with paragraph 3 of resolution 1591 (2005) and resolution 1672 (2006), including by engaging immediately with all relevant parties;

12. *Reiterates* that all States, particularly those in the region, shall take the necessary measures to prevent entry into or transit through their territories of all persons as designated by the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 1591 (2005), and *calls upon* the Government of Sudan to enhance cooperation and information sharing with other States in this regard;

13. *Urges* all States, in particular those in the region, to report to the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement measures imposed by resolutions 1591 (2005) and 1556 (2004), including imposition of targeted measures;

14. *Expresses its intention*, following the midterm update, to review the state of implementation, including obstacles to full and effective implementation of the measures, imposed in resolution 1591 (2005) and 1945 (2010), with a view to ensuring full compliance;

15. *Regrets* that some individuals of the Government of Sudan and armed groups in Darfur continue to commit violence against civilians, impede the peace process, and disregard the demands of the Council, *expresses its intention* to impose targeted sanctions against individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria of paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591 (2005), and *encourages* the Panel of Experts, in coordination with the Joint African Union/United Nations Mediation, to provide to the Committee when appropriate the names of any individuals, groups, or entities that may meet the listing criteria;

16. *Deplores* the attacks against UNAMID and *calls upon* the Government of Sudan to swiftly investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice, taking into account the findings of the 2014 final report of the Panel of Experts, and reaffirms its deep condolences to the Governments and families of those killed;

17. *Condemns* the use of civilian establishments, in particular the camps for internally displaced persons, by the armed groups, including those opposing the Government of Sudan, to gain a military advantage in a manner that places the civilians and civilian objects at risk from the dangers arising from armed conflict;

18. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to continue to investigate the financing and role of armed, military, and political groups in attacks against UNAMID personnel in Darfur;

19. *Recalls* that individuals and entities who plan, sponsor or participate in such attacks constitute a threat to stability in Darfur and may therefore meet the designation criteria provided for in paragraphs 3 (c) of resolution 1591 (2005), and *expresses its intention* to impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities who plan, sponsor or participate in such attacks;

Cooperation

20. *Insists* that the Government of Sudan remove all restrictions, limitations and bureaucratic impediments imposed on the work of the Panel of Experts, including by issuing timely multiple-entry visas to all members of the Panel of Experts for the duration of its mandate, and by waiving the requirement of Darfur travel permits for said Panel members, and, enhance its cooperation and information sharing with the Panel and allow the Panel free and unfettered access to all of Darfur;

21. *Urges* the Government of Sudan respond to the Committee requests on measures put in place to protect civilians in various parts of Darfur, including those

affected by new displacements; investigations conducted and accountability measures undertaken for unlawful killings of civilians and other human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including investigations conducted and accountability measures undertaken for attacks against peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel; and the situation of civilian populations in areas such as eastern Jebel Mara and especially those areas in North Darfur where the Panel of Experts, UNAMID and humanitarian agencies and personnel have been denied access, and measures taken to allow timely, safe, and unhindered access for humanitarian relief to these areas, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

22. *Welcomes* the Committee's work, which has drawn on the reports of the Panel and taken advantage of the work done in other fora, and *urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies, the African Union and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 1591 (2005), resolution 1556 (2004), and resolution 1945 (2010) and to provide timely responses to information requests;

23. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to continue to coordinate its activities as appropriate with the operations of the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), with international efforts to promote a political process in Darfur, and with other Panels or Groups of Experts, established by the Security Council, as relevant to the implementation of its mandate;

24. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to assess in its midterm update and final report progress towards reducing violations by all parties of the measures imposed by paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2005), paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), and paragraph 10 of resolution 1945 (2010), and progress towards removing impediments to the political process, threats to stability in Darfur and the region; violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights, including those that involve attacks on the civilian population, sexual- and gender-based violence and violations and abuses against children, and other violations of the above-mentioned resolutions, and to provide the Committee with information on the individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591;

Sanctions Committee

25. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Committee to encourage dialogue with interested Member States, in particular those in the region, including by inviting representatives of such States to meet with the Committee to discuss implementation of the measures and further encourages the Committee to continue its dialogue with UNAMID;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding regular consultations with concerned Member States, as may be necessary, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures set forth in this resolution;

27. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.